

Short Answer Series # 20

Why is it wrong to teach things the Bible does not teach?

There are things that are believed by individuals, or taught in Churches, which are errors, but they will not affect anyone's Salvation. They are done in ignorance, and 'The times of this ignorance God winked at.' Acts 17v30.

But, when individuals or Churches teach things that are against what the Bible plainly teaches, that is Heresy. Heresy is defined as, 'A belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious doctrine.'

That is man's definition of Heresy. But, God's definition of Heresy is 'Anything that is contrary to what is plainly revealed in the Word of God, the Bible'. So, why is it wrong to believe and teach things that are not found in the Bible?

'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.' 2 Timothy 3v16. The Bible was inspired by God, and given to mankind, so we would know how we should live and behave. It is the final Authority on faith, doctrine, morals, ethics, and all things pertaining to life.

'Thy Word is Truth.' John 17v17.

'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.' Psalm 119v105.

'...if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.' Isaiah 8v20.

Light allows us to find our way in darkness, and Spiritual Light, allows us to find our way in the Spiritual darkness that is this world. If there is no 'Light' in those who don't speak according to the Bible, then they can only be 'Blind leaders of the blind, and they will all fall into a ditch.' Jesus rebuked the Pharisees saying, 'You reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.' Mark 7v9. Because they put their traditions before the Word of God. And he told them that by doing this, they were, ' Making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition.' Mark 7v13. Adding anything to the Word of God will pollute it, and it will not accomplish what it was inspired to accomplish. It will become the 'letter,' not the 'Living Word.' Jesus said, 'In vain do they worship Me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.'

Matthew 15v9. Just because someone believes they are worshipping the Lord, it doesn't mean He has to accept it as worship. When we add man-made doctrines, (dogmas, sacraments, traditions, articles of faith, etc.,) that are not found in the Bible, to our beliefs, it becomes a manmade religion, not the God revealed one, and it is just as Pagan as any other man-made Pagan religion.

'For by Grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.' Ephesians 2v8-9. Any 'Church' that teaches Salvation any other way than by the grace of God alone, e.g. by adding something else that you need to do or believe to be saved, (Sabbath keeping, sacraments, believing another book besides the Bible, being a member of a certain Church or religious cult, etc,) has made that promise of no effect. Paul asked the Galatians, 'Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit are you now made perfect by the flesh? Galatians 3v3. There is nothing we can do to help save ourselves. The only thing we can do is accept the Salvation that was bought for us on Calvary, when Jesus cried, 'It is finished!' Because it was finished then, and always will be.

'For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.' 1 Timothy 2v5. Any Church that teaches there is another mediator they have to go through to get to God, (e.g. a certain religious leader, their Minister, Priest, Mary, or dead Saints,) has made that promise of no effect, and they are not getting to Him. Why not believe, and do it His way? Because, 'His way is perfect.' 2 Samuel 22v31.